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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
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Friday 2 May 2003

Mr. Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

re: NPRM of Sept 02, deadline of June 2, 2003

Dear Chairman:

Please allow more time for a transparent public examination and discussion of the revision of media ownership rules proposed for adoption on June 2.

Just last night I got my hands on the NPRM of Sept 02. I haven't finished reading it, but I did read two of your prepared speeches (3/27/03, 4/28/03) that attempt to justify the FCC's present course of action. I found all these texts highly problematic.

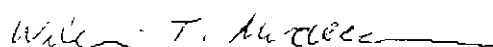
When citizens become only "consumers," when the public forum becomes only a media "marketplace," and when journalistic truth becomes merely product that must be made palatable (and, of course, compatible with a marketer's policies) so as to be sold, we are in an imaginary land where corporate libertarianism dominates. The classic libertarian, William Safire, knows the difference between conscientious conservatism and the religion you serve. Hmm...a fault line in the right?

By including every new form of web- and satellite-based media in the count, you can honestly say that media outlets have increased by 195% and owners by 139%. This is to compare grains of sand with the Andes, the Rockies, and the Himalayas. Because of an airy theory of digital migration (if I get your drift), the major media that provide "free" content might need aggressive deregulation to have a "fighting chance to survive." This is a hoot. Disingenuous. How about a public network, then?

What is the evidence that conglomerated major media control what consumers hear, in spite of recent increases in the absolute number of outlets and owners? Clear Channel yanked the Dixie Chicks from their playlist for something one of their members said at a live concert in England. So much for the survival of viewpoint diversity under conditions of ownership homogeneity.

How to fulfill the requirements of Section 202(h)? Repeal the Act (of 1996) as not being in the public interest. Then you needn't worry about the next review.

Sincerely,



William T. McClellan